

American Association for the Advancement of Science

Dec 1916

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American Association for the Advancement of Science

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, WASHINGTON, D. C.

CHARLES R. VAN HISE . . . PRESIDENT
L. O. HOWARD PERMANENT SECY.
F. S. HAZARD ASSISTANT SECY.

1916 MEETING
NEW YORK CITY
DECEMBER 26 TO 31, 1916

W. E. HENDERSON GENERAL SECY.
C. STUART GAGER SECY. OF COUNCIL
ROBERT S. WOODWARD TREASURER

OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

Dear Sir:

An invitation is hereby extended to the Institution you represent to appoint delegates to the sixty-eighth meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science to be held in New York, December 26th to 30th; the first of the special convocation meetings to be held every fourth year.

This particular convocation-week should be an event of great importance in the development of American Science. Conditions in Europe place this country under heavy responsibilities for carrying on the work of Science in the interests of civilization. Several years will elapse before any scientific congress essentially international in character will be assembled in Europe. The enforced delay in facilitating the personal exchange of opinions between the representatives of different countries is a serious obstacle to every form of progress.

The circumstances under which the meeting will be held suggest unusual opportunities for awakening new impulses, creating broader interests and directing attention to Science organized for the purpose of protecting and enriching the possibilities of life. In view of these conditions we hope you will appreciate the importance of having the scientific work of your Institution represented at the meetings and if it is possible of paying all or part of the traveling expenses of the delegates.

Very truly yours

(Signed) J. McK. CATTELL, Columbia University.
L. O. HOWARD, Smithsonian Institute.
STEWART PATON, Chairman, Princeton University.

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OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

Princeton, N.J., Dec., 1, 1916

Dear Sir:

A large number of Institutions have already appointed delegates to attend the sixty-ninth meeting,— the first of the great convocation meetings,— of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, to be held in New York during the last week in December.

These greater convocation meetings, held once in four years, are events of national importance, and offer unusual opportunities for the interchange of ideas between delegates. The Institutions sending representatives not only profit by the work of these congresses but receive from them a stimulating influence that cannot fail to aid in spreading the spirit of research and in coordinating many of the forces that tend to promote greater efficiency in commerce and industry.

The coming meeting in New York has assumed unusual significance because conditions throughout the world have reduced the number of scientific congresses. Your attention, therefore, is again called to the desirability of Institutions having delegates who will be prepared to take an active part either by presentation of scientific papers or by acting as executive officers at the meetings of the Association.

On account of the national character of this congress the suggestion is made that Institutions should both send delegates to it and should pay the traveling expenses of their representatives. This action would serve the double purpose of securing fuller representation and of affording an index of the interest taken throughout the country in the vital questions relating to the general problem of preparedness for more effective living.

Very truly yours,
J. McKEEN CATTELL, Columbia University
L. O. HOWARD, Smithsonian Institution
STEWART PATON, Chairman, Princeton University

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December 11th, 1916

I. O. Howard, Esq.,

Secretary, American Association for the Advancement of Science,
Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I regret that owing to the necessity of curtailing expenses at this time on account of the war no funds are at my disposal for paying travelling expenses of our Professors to scientific meetings; therefore I am unable to promise grants to those who may wish to attend the American Association for the Advancement of Science to be held in New York in the last week of December. I hope that after the war we shall find ourselves in a better position.

Yours sincerely,

President.

applied science, including the applications of science to education and society. The annual dues of members are three dollars, as compared with five dollars in the British Association and four dollars in the French Association, and in addition to the privileges of the meetings and the satisfaction of supporting our great national scientific organization, members receive in the publications alone a large return.

During the past fifty-eight years the names of the leaders of science in America have been on the register of the association. Among its officers

Membership

have been Henry, Agassiz, Rogers, Peirce, Dana, Torrey, Newberry, Hall, Gould, Le Conte, Putnam, Powell, Marsh, Leslie, Langley, Newcomb, and nearly all those who have given distinction to science in this country. The present membership of over 10,000 includes nearly all Americans professionally engaged in scientific work. Its sections cover engineering, medicine and education; engineers, physicians, teachers and educational administrators are largely represented, though there are many more who for both personal and public reasons might be members to advantage. The association also admits to membership those who are in sympathy with its aims and who wish to assist in promoting them, even though they are not engaged in scientific work. Many names prominent in the professions and in business are thus found on the list of members. In this direction, however, the membership of the association could be greatly enlarged to the advantage of all. At the annual meetings of the British Association a thousand or more citizens of the city in which the meeting is held become members, thus exhibiting their interest and providing by their dues a fund for research. The American Association should ultimately unite in its membership all those in this country who appreciate the value of science for the welfare of the nation and of the world.

The annual dues of members are three dollars; the admission fee is five dollars. A member may become a life member by the payment at one time of fifty dollars, thus becoming exempt from all further

New Members

assessments and being entitled for life to *Science* and the other publications of the association and to all the privileges of membership. The fees of life members are ultimately added to the research funds of the association. A person contributing one thousand dollars to the permanent funds of the association becomes a patron.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

The American Association for the Advancement of Science and more than thirty national scientific societies affiliated with it will meet in New York City during the last week of December, 1916, under the auspices

The New York Meeting

of Columbia University, New York University, the College of the City of New York, the American Museum of Natural History and the other scientific and educational institutions of the city. Dr. Charles R. Van Hise, president of the University of Wisconsin, will preside; the address of the retiring president will be given by Dr. W. W. Campbell, director of the Lick Observatory. The members of the association living in and near New York City have been organized as a local committee. Its executive committee consists of Henry F. Osborn, chairman, J. J. Stevenson, M. I. Pupin, Charles Baskerville, N. L. Britton, Simon Flexner, E. B. Wilson and J. McKeen Cattell, secretary. Dr. R. S. Woodward, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, is treasurer of the association. Dr. L. O. Howard, The Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., is the permanent secretary.

This sixty-ninth meeting of the American Association, which was established in 1848, is the first of the greater convocation week meetings, to be held hereafter once in four years, successively in New York, Chicago and Washington. When the association last met in New York, now ten years ago, there were about 5,000 members, the attendance was over 2,000 and there were nearly 1,000 papers on the programs. The membership of the association at present numbers over 10,000; the coming meeting will surely be the largest and most important gathering of scientific men hitherto held in this country or elsewhere.

Contemporary history has made evident to all the dominant place of science in modern life and has at the same time placed on us the responsibility of leadership. New York City may now become the *Science and the Nation* world's financial center; it is even more important to us as a nation that the New York meeting of the association shall signalize the period at which our country becomes

the most fruitful center of scientific research. The applications of science, by doubling the length of life and quadrupling the productivity of labor,

have made possible universal education and equality of opportunity. Science and education have given us democracy; it is the duty and the privilege of democracy to repay its debt by forwarding science and education to a degree not hitherto known in the world's history.

Science can only be supported in a democracy as the result of the organization of scientific men. We can not depend on a leisure class as has been the case in England, or on governmental organization as has been the case in Germany. Science with its applications has given the world its vast wealth, but the results of research, being for the benefit of all and not as a rule for an individual or group, must be paid for by society. Scientific research is purchasable, but it must be supported by endowments or by appropriations. The career of the scientific man must be made attractive in order that able men may follow it. Science requires recruits and it requires money. These are only to be obtained by impressing the public, the press and the government with the supreme importance of scientific research. One of the most effective means is the organization of scientific men into associations for the promotion of their interests, which are identical with the interests of society as a whole.

Scientific Organization

The American Association for the Advancement of Science and the national scientific societies which have arisen from it and retain affiliation with it have been important factors in encouraging scientific research and diffusing general interest in its results. The annual meetings have been a clearing house to which men of science of the whole country have brought the results of their work, and from which they have returned with a renewed interest in research. The migratory meetings in widely separated places have extended an intelligent interest in science and have led to greater appreciation of its importance. An organization competent to represent the consensus of expert opinion has been an important factor in guiding the scientific activity of the country. The council, in which all the affiliated societies and all the scientific men of the country are represented, and the various committees, such as the Committee of One Hundred on Public Health and the Committee of One Hundred on Scientific Research, have been of great service. The association has a permanent fund of over \$100,000, the income of which is appropriated to aid research.

The annual convocation week meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the scientific societies affiliated with it are held at the end of each year, many universities and colleges having extended their Christmas holidays for the purpose and authorizing the appointment of special delegates. Since the last meeting in New York, ten years ago, meetings have been held in Chicago, Baltimore, Boston, Minneapolis, Washington,

The Work of the Association

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Annual Meetings

The annual convocation week meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the scientific societies affiliated with it are held at the end of each year, many universities and colleges having extended their Christmas holidays for the purpose and authorizing the appointment of special delegates. Since the last meeting in New York, ten years ago, meetings have been held in Chicago, Baltimore, Boston, Minneapolis, Washington,

Cleveland, Atlanta, Philadelphia and Columbus. A Pacific Coast Division has been established, which holds summer meetings, and under its auspices a general meeting was held in the summer of 1915. The association is organized in eleven sections, covering the field of pure and applied science, as follows:

- Section A.—Mathematics and Astronomy.
- Section B.—Physics.
- Section C.—Chemistry.
- Section D.—Mechanical Science and Engineering.
- Section E.—Geology and Geography.
- Section F.—Zoology.
- Section G.—Botany.
- Section H.—Anthropology and Psychology.
- Section I.—Social and Economic Science.
- Section K.—Physiology and Experimental Medicine.
- Section L.—Education.
- Section M.—Agriculture.

Among the national societies which meet regularly or at times with the association are:

- The American Mathematical Society.
- The Astronomical Society of America.
- The American Physical Society.
- The American Chemical Society.
- The Geological Society of America.
- The Association of American Geographers.
- The Paleontological Society of America.
- The Botanical Society of America.
- The American Phytopathological Society.
- The American Society of Naturalists.
- The American Society of Zoologists.
- The Entomological Society of America.
- The American Association of Economic Entomologists.
- The Association of American Anatomists.
- The American Physiological Society.
- The American Society of Biological Chemists.
- The American Society for Experimental Pathology.
- The Society of American Bacteriologists.
- The American Philosophical Association.
- The American Psychological Association.
- The American Anthropological Association.

The association publishes proceedings and a membership list. *Science*, the American weekly journal devoted to the advancement of science, publishing annually 2,000 large double column pages and costing

Publications five dollars a year to non-members, prints the proceedings and official notices of the association and is sent free of charge to members. In place of *Science*, members may receive by request

The Scientific Monthly—conducted on the editorial lines followed by *The Popular Science Monthly* since 1900—an illustrated magazine, devoted to the diffusion of science, publishing articles in all departments of pure and